

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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INFORMAL REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

SUBJECT

Ploesti-Odessa Pipe Line

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1. The Ploesti-Odessa pipe line was constructed in 1945 and 1946. Since at that time materials were lacking, especially the pipes themselves, these were obtained from other pipe lines, especially those connecting Ploesti and Campina with the Danubian port of Giurgiu. The latter lines had been built by the Germans, in order to facilitate the transportation of oil via the Danube River. After the German defeat, however, these pipe lines had little value, and were therefore dismantled and the materials used for the Ploesti-Odessa line.
2. The original project called for a pipe line from Ploesti to Reni, but it was later extended to Odessa. From Ploesti as far as Faurei, the line follows the route of the old Ploesti-Constanta line. From Faurei, it branches off in order to connect the newly developed Prohova oil-producing region with Odessa.
3. Pumping stations are located about every four to six kilometers. For about a year, these have also been used as guard houses for the personnel assigned to guard the pipe line.
4. [] the pipe line became a favored target of the Rumanian resistance forces, and several attacks have been made upon it. [] several sabotage attempts were made, and these were repeated [] These attempts culminated [] when passengers on the train for Faurei witnessed a huge fire, visible for several kilometers, caused by igniting the gasoline flowing from the cut pipe line. The latter had been blown up near the Faurei pumping station. The fire could not be put out for a week, and flames were visible all during this time to train travelers through the area.
5. The pipe line was also cut at about the same time near the town of Mizil, and here again a fire was lighted by the saboteurs.
6. As a result of these sabotage attempts, the guarding of the pipe line was entrusted to the Army instead of the People's Militia.
7. [] eight engineers, including Dan Grigorescu, have been arrested in the Boldesti (Prahova) area, charged with sabotage of the oil wells. Extensive arrests have also been made among engineers and technicians

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in the Ceptura-Urlati and Balcoi areas.

8. Sabotage, added to the initial lack of materials for the drilling of wells, has rendered the situation of the Rumanian oil industry precarious, despite attempts to exploit new regions such as Oltenia, Buzau, and Bacau.

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